RAFFERTY-ALAMEDA PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Souris Basin Development Authority

CHAPTER 4

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

RAFFERTY/ALAMEDA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

CONTENTS

Executive Summary Report

Chapter 1 Project Description

Chapter 2 Social & Economic Circumstances

Chapter 3 Benefit Cost Analysis

Chapter 4 Public Involvement

Chapter 5 Geology & Mineral Resources

Chapter 6 Hydrogeology

Chapter 7 Hydrology

Chapter 8 Water Quality

Chapter 9 Soils

Chapter 10 Natural Vegetation

Chapter 11 Transportation

Chapter 12 Land Use

Chapter 13 Irrigation

Chapter 14 Fisheries

Chapter 15 Wildlife

Chapter 16 Heritage Resources

Chapter 17 Recreation
(a) - Recreation General
(b) - Lutheran Bible Camp
(c) - Dr. Mainprize Regional Park

Bibliography

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 4

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

	Page
Introduction	1
Background	2
- 1940 IJC Investigation	2
- 1958 IJC Investigation	3
- The Souris Basin Study	6
Recent Work: Public Involvement after the Souris Study	11
Continued Program of Public Involvement	13
Summary and Conclusions	22

APPENDICES

Appendix One - Souris Basin Study Survey Results
Appendix Two - Souris Basin Study Presentations
Appendix Three - Concerns Raised at 1986 Open House Meetings

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SECTION

INTRODUCTION

There are benefits and costs associated with every act of environmental intervention, particularly where the objective is one of change. Even the decision to take up residence next to a river is characterized by environmental compromise. Benefits accrue through availability of water for domestic, agricultural, industrial and recreation use and frequently there is a certain aesthetic gain by living in proximity to water; this is particularly true on the prairies. On the cost side, residents along the river are subject to the vagaries of nature, notably the extremes of flood and drought. The temptation to tamper with nature in these circumstances is very strong. The arguments favouring management of the river's capacity must therefore be considered relative to the overall disruption of that river's past performance. The need is to look beyond immediate gain and to assess longer term, less obvious, potential costs.

The Souris Basin has been witness to many smaller scale endeavors to make the water work for, rather than against, residents. As early as the turn of the century, farmers began drainage works at Yellow Grass for access to more of the high quality growing land, while farmers and cattlemen further downstream along the river valley were building dams and weirs to save what water they could for use during dry periods.

In view of the importance placed on domestic uses of water, the views, wishes and needs of the people directly affected by the river are of paramount importance to any decisions made concerning the management of the river. This principle has long been upheld by public bodies overseeing the development of the Basin. Precedence for such input goes back to the first International Joint Commission (IJC) hearings in 1940.

This section of the Environmental Impact Statement summarizes the historical input citizens of the region have made to the management of the Souris River and confirms the commitment of the Authority to continue in actively soliciting public input and indeed ensuring that it is incorporated within plans for continued development of the Souris River Basin water resources.

BACKGROUND

The Souris is an international river, flowing from Saskatchewan into North Dakota and back into Canada through Manitoba. The river system therefore falls under the jurisdiction of the International Joint Commission (IJC). This Commission is a permanent body (established under the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909) consisting of six commissioners, three Canadian and three American, with Canadian and American co-chairmen.

The IJC has held, at various times and locations, public meetings and hearings whose terms of reference deal with issues specific to the Souris Basin. Two significant groups operating under the jurisdiction of the IJC are the International Souris-Red River Board (created January 17, 1948) and the International Souris Board of Control (created January 15, 1940). Of primary importance to this section of the study are two hearings conducted by the IJC into the management of the Souris River. These hearings took place in 1940 and 1958 respectively.

1940 IJC Investigation

The 1940 IJC hearings may be less notable for what they accomplished than for the manner in which they were conducted. From the very outset of the investigation information was sought not only from technical experts but from any individual or group interested in the development of the Souris River Basin. In keeping with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, public meetings were held in Melita, Manitoba; Minot, North Dakota; and Estevan, Saskatchewan during June of 1940.

In total, appearances were made by over 100 interested groups and individuals. The major concerns expressed during the hearings centred on the drought conditions experienced during the summer months, the quality of water available for use by residents and the effects of upstream residents' water management practices upon people living further downstream.

Since these hearings took place shortly after the severe drought of the "dirty 30's", it is not surprising that concerns regarding the potential for flood damage were not expressed.

The recommendations of the 1940 report included the need for better stream flow data and stated that until such data was made available no permanent method of regulating the flow of the Souris should be undertaken. The mechanism was established by which interested parties could make application to the IJC for water control purposes. By the mid-to-late 50's, the IJC had received a number of requests for projects involving control of the Souris River.

1958 IJC Investigation

Given the nature and frequency of the requests for interim measures, and the body of stream flow data that had been collected, the IJC proceeded in 1958 with a final report to the Governments of Canada and the United States under the 1940 Reference.

As was the case in 1940, the Commission founded its recommendation not only on the basis of information provided by technical experts but also on the advice of experts of a different kind; the people who lived and worked in the Souris River Basin. Public input was again sought through the medium of open hearings.

The purpose of the 1958 investigation was to prepare recommendations for amending some of the interim measures recommended in the Commission's 1940 report. Changes to the interim recommendations were required in order to meet the needs of those concerned with the development of the Souris River Basin.

The recommendations of the Commission are summarized as follows:

1. The Province of Saskatchewan shall have the right to divert, store, and use waters which originate in th Saskatchewan portion of the Souris River Basin, provided that such diversion, storage and use shall not diminish the annual flow of the river at the Sherwood Crossing more than fifty percent of that which would have occurred in a state of nature.

2. Except as otherwise provided wherein with respect to delivery of water to the Province of Manitoba, the State of North Dakota shall have the right to divert, store, and use the waters which originate in the North Dakota portion of the Souris River Basin together with the waters delivered to the State of North Dakota at the Sherwood Crossing under Recommendation (1) above; provided, that any diversion, use or storage of Long Creek water shall not diminish the annual flow at the eastern crossing of Long Creek into Saskatchewan below the annual flow of said Creek at the western crossing into North Dakota.

3. a) In addition to the waters of the Souris River Basin which originate in the Province of Manitoba, that Province shall have the right, except during periods of severe drought, to receive for its own use and the State of North Dakota shall deliver from any available source during the months of June, July, August, September, and October, of each year, six thousand and sixty-nine acre feet of water at the Westhope Crossing regulated so far as practicable at the rate of twenty cubic feet per second.

   b) In periods of severe drought when it becomes impracticable for the State of North Dakota to provide the foregoing regulated flows, the responsibility of the State of North Dakota in this connection shall be limited to the provision of such flows as may be predictable, in the opinion of the said Board of Control, in accordance with the objective of making water available for human and livestock consumption and for household use.

4. In the event of disagreement between the two sections of the International Souris River Board of Control, the matters in controversy shall be referred to the Commission for decision.

5. The interim measures for which provision is herein made shall remain in effect until the adoption of permanent measures in accordance with the requirements of the Reference of January 15, 1940, unless before that time, these interim measures are qualified or modified by the Commission.

The results of these hearings once again illustrated the continued concern residents of the area had for water use, quality improvement, and flow monitoring. In short, the cry for better river management was growing stronger in both Canada and the United States.

In recognition of these concerns, the Canadian Saskatchewan Consultative Committee and the Canadian Manitoba Advisory Committee were formed, with both groups focusing on water needs in the Souris Basin. These were not however, the only interest groups formed to deal with issues surrounding the management of the Souris River Basin. In the Saskatchewan portion of the basin, the citizens themselves formed a group known as the Souris Moose Jaw Water Association. The Association comprised the Mayors of Oxbow, Estevan, Weyburn, and Moose Jaw with representatives from other interest groups and their purpose was to bring attention to the problems of the Souris. In response to this Association and other concerns, representatives from the Governments of Saskatchewan and Manitoba and Canada formed the Souris Basin Working Group. This Working Group designed a study program for the Souris River and issued a report in June of 1972. In recognition of the local interest in the issue of water management on the Souris River, on October 28, 1974, the governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Canada signed a major economic, social and technical study of the River Basin. The Souris Basin Study, as it became known, was one of a series of major river basin studies that were carried out across the country during the 1970's (Pentland, 1983).

The Souris Basin Study

"The Souris River Basin has been the subject of more theoretical development than any other river basin in our Province. Development has been advanced by every political party. Development has been favoured by every government formed by such parties. Development has been boosted by every municipal government and by almost every voluntary organization. This interest in development comes naturally to the people of the Souris. The Basin not only contains valuable agricultural land but has within its borders great deposits of fossil fuels and recreation areas located close to relatively concentrated markets and population areas. The big barrier, which has continually loomed before every Souris development has been water. Most years enough water sluices through the Souris to more than cope with existing local needs and more than meet our international and interprovincial commitments. But there have been years of virtually zero flow. The immediate problem is to ensure a regular supply of water in the face of wide variations in flow during the year and from year to year."

With these words on October 28, 1974 the Honourable Neil E. Byers, Minister of Environment for the Province of Saskatchewan joined with Canada and Manitoba in signing an agreement through which they would carry out an assessment of the water and related resources of the Souris Basin, and of the demands being made and likely to be made on those water resources. In order to set out objectives relative to the management of these resources in Canada and to develop an appropriate plan to meet these objectives, four government departments were assigned to carry out the study: Environment Canada, P.F.R.A., Environment Saskatchewan and Manitoba Mines, Resources and Environment Management.

During the initial planning for the study it was determined that the public should play an important role in the examination of the river basin. At a meeting on December 2, 1974 the Study Board decided that a public involvement program designed and prepared by the Saskatchewan Department of Environment, would be included as a major component of the study. The program goal was to assist the Souris Basin Study Board in the development of a water resource management framework that would take into consideration the perceptions and attitudes of the residents of the Basin in assessing management alternatives. The program had the following objectives:

1. To develop a foundation and mechanism for public involvement.
2. To gather, organize and provide relevant information to the residents of the basin.
3. To provide an opportunity to individuals, groups and organizations to present information (factual and attitudinal) on issues relating to the water resource of the basin.
4. To assist the public in evaluating water management alternatives and to encourage public reaction.
5. To develop a positive interaction between the basin residents and the study personnel.
6. To develop an effective reporting mechanism to ensure that the Study Board was aware of the perceptions and attitudes of the public.

Public meetings with the Study Board were held in four key locations. At these meetings the public was informed of the scope of the study, the methods and the techniques to be employed. The people present were then asked to relay to the Board their problems and concerns about the river. Transcripts of these meetings were kept and served to provide an early indication of major public concerns. Each of these meetings was covered by local media. The general public was encouraged at every opportunity to contact the study office to share their opinions and concerns.

The next major step in the public involvement program was to form five public task forces in key areas throughout the Basin. The task forces comprised people who lived in the area and in most cases, representatives of interested organizations, R.M. Councilors, Town, Village and City Councilors, and valley residents. Each task force was given access to all study information. Interpretive discussions were conducted by the study director and technical staff. The three Saskatchewan task forces (Weyburn, Estevan and Oxbow) held meetings throughout the study period.

The Weyburn task force was the largest, and a significant portion of the members attending this task force were made up of representatives from Creelman, Fillmore and Yellow Grass. Residents of these areas were keenly interested in developing more agricultural land through expansion of the drainage system. Most members of this task force were aware of the effect of flooding on agricultural land as well as of other problems created in the river by their drainage program. In general, the discussion in this task force focused on local community activities and water related problems such as drainage and water shortages for the City of Weyburn. It was within this task force that some objections to the Rafferty Dam and reservoir were first introduced by ranchers who occupied land immediately south of the Nickle Lake Dam and Reservoir and who used the facilities of the P.F.R.A. Lomond pasture.

The Estevan task force had a small but active membership which raised concerns regarding flood damage during the spring run-off periods in the Estevan and Roche Percee areas as well as to farm lands immediately upstream from Estevan, near Hitchcock and Macoun where summer flooding occurs in their hay pastures. It was from this task force that the re-emergence of a strong public movement toward building the Rafferty Dam and Reservoir developed. The technical staff was continually requested to examine the feasibility of this water management proposal.

The Oxbow-Carnduff task force, also a small group, brought to the study concerns about flooding and water supply and suggested the unique approach of introducing concerns of farmers and ranchers immediately south of the border in North Dakota.

In total, approximately 2,000 hours of volunteer time was devoted to task force meetings by residents throughout the Souris Basin.

While there was considerable public input through the Task Force process, the public involvement program developed a mail-out questionnaire to provide additional exposure throughout the Basin area and to test the level of interest and concern that was being generated by the Souris Study.

A review of the responses received found that respondents were people who had been directly affected by the high and low flows of the river and were economically tied to the river's future.

Comments received from the questionnaire appear in Public Involvement Appendix One.

From the results of the survey, it was evident that the major interest and concern was focused on the valley developments and the villages and communities located in close proximity to the river. This was consistent with study technical information which was directly river related. Continued work with the task forces generated a considerable number of in depth comments and at a final meeting on March 1, 1978 with five representatives from each task force present, an evaluation was undertaken of all study options. Each task force brought with them comments, briefs and statements which they had received and these were also presented at this final meeting.

Several groups and individuals also made presentations during the course of the study. Some of these comments, pertinent to the Rafferty Dam, are presented in Public Involvement Appendix Two.

At the conclusion of the Souris River Basin Study, the Study Board prepared recommendations which included detailed results of all the scientific evaluation as well as views expressed by the public during and prior to the study. These recommendations followed eight basic water management principles.

1. In general, water resources within the basin should be developed to meet water supply requirements within the basin.
2. Municipal water supply requirements must be met.
3. If adequate supplies of water are not available within the basin to meet irrigation, thermal cooling water, and industrial water demands, importation of water should be considered only if the benefits to be derived outweigh the costs.

THE MUIRHEAD FARM

PHOTO ONE:
Muirhead Farm
under 3 m of
water.
April, 1976.
(Photo courtesy
J. Muirhead)

When I am asked to say a word
I feel just like a little bird
I want to spread my wings and fly
across the blue and cloudless sky.

But speak I must, I said I would
and I so hope it does some good
because when I think back it seems
I was steeped in idle dreams

I spent my time for many years
drying up my pails of tears
watching water go astray
taking all our work away.

Every year for forty odd
I prayed and prayed to my dear God
that someday there would be a dam
to help this poor and helpless man

Who spent his time with stones and such
building dykes and they weren't much
but they were all the control we had
to hold the water, that went mad

Every spring, when Midale Dam
Broke its banks, in spite of man
and down it came and destroyed our crops
and washed away our crossing props

Then when the damage had been done
out would come the glorious sun
and hay would grow and look so good
and then we'd have another flood

No hay, no roads, nowhere to go
just sit and watch the endless flow
of water past the kitchen door
to drown my dreams for ever more

Not quite though, something seemed to say
this will end, on one glad day
you must stand firm and dream some more
just sit here at your kitchen door

And see a Dam and it will hold
all the dreams that went untold
and now its here within our grasp
and I thank the Lord that here at last

We can stop dreaming and watch unfold
A piece of history, scope untold
to help two nations with nought but good
it beats the thought of endless flood.

"By courtesy of"

--Joyce O. Muirhead

4. The cost of developing water management projects, including land drainage and water related resource projects, should include the cost of mitigation measures or adequate compensation to those who are adversely affected.
5. In general, projects to reduce flood damages should have benefit to cost ratios greater than one.
6. The potential for future flood damages should not be allowed to increase.
7. Use of flood plain should not conflict with the passage of flood flows.
8. In general, quality of water should meet water quality objectives.

RECENT WORK: Public Involvement After the Souris Basin Study

While some work was undertaken following the Souris Study; e.g., Nickle Lake expansion, Weyburn channel improvement, and moving the Estevan water source to Boundary, the principal problem of local water management was not addressed until the co-operative Saskatchewan/North Dakota proposal was developed in 1983. Prior to 1983, concerned citizens on both sides of the border had been calling attention to the perceived potential benefits of a Rafferty Dam and Reservoir. Under the terms of the 1983 proposal, the Governments of Saskatchewan and North Dakota would work together in developing a plan for effective, comprehensive water resource management within the Souris Basin.

In August, 1984, an informal public meeting was organized by a concerned Estevan citizen who had been directly affected by flooding. Approximately 65 people attended and with the cooperation of Saskatchewan Power Corporation, the Rafferty proposal as it was then envisioned was described in conjunction with the plan for another power generating station. Saskatchewan Power Corporation advised that these projects were undergoing more detailed study and that members of the public were encouraged to present their views. In this vein, a series of concerns were raised:

1. Concern for community pastures, especially in the Goodwater, Halbrite area, and access roads in the upstream area.

2. Concern for landowners with holdings that might be split and residences flooded.
3. The inundation of Dr. Mainprize Park was a particularly emotional concern for which there is no entirely satisfactory mitigation.
4. The inundation of productive hay lands in the valley bottom for which there is no entirely satisfactory mitigation.

In response to concerns of this nature and to pursue further this investigation of public viewpoints, Saskatchewan Power Corporation and related agencies of the Government of Saskatchewan initiated a series of public information and involvement programs. The first phase of this program comprised "Open House" meetings held in five locations. These brought together government and corporate specialists and citizens in an informal and informative discussion atmosphere. The meetings were held at: Midale, March 11, 1986; Alameda, March 12, 1986; Weyburn, March 13, 1986; Carlyle, March 17, 1986; and Estevan, March 18, 1986. Public input to these meetings generated the comments included in Public Involvement Appendix Three.

The next step was to contact special interest groups with clearly defined expertise that could provide insight to issues that are difficult to mitigate. Meetings were held with The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, The Saskatchewan Natural History Society, Ducks Unlimited, The Dr. Mainprize Regional Park Committee and The Lutheran Bible Camp Committee.

Each of these groups received an update of the project background information and asked to provide the newly formed Souris Basin Development Authority with concerns, comments and ideas about their special interests. In May, 1986 the Authority assumed effective responsibility for development of Rafferty and Alameda dams and reservoirs as well as co-ordination of ancillary project initiatives such as irrigation, parks, recreation, international obligations and cooling for the Shand Power Plant. The Authority also became the effective vehicle for subsequent public involvement.

Consistent with its mandate, the Authority developed a "store front" office that has served to provide easy access to information for individuals who are interested in the project. A general information program was developed around the

Dr. Sam Souris character. "Dr. Sam" has provided the basin weekly newspapers with articles about the Souris River, wildlife, water management, the Rafferty Dam and the Alameda Dam. These articles have been carried in three Basin weekly papers and mailed to four others in addition to the Regina Leader Post, The Saskatoon Star Phoenix, local radio stations and the CBC. Other public awareness activities undertaken by the Authority include:

- The attendance of the Dr. Sam Souris character at two public functions.
- The preparation of detailed fact sheets, with publication dates designed to coincide with the completion of each technical segment of investigation.
- The provision of press releases on project details.
- Special technical presentations by Authority staff to local interest groups.

CONTINUED PROGRAM OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Souris Basin Development Authority will continue the public information program which began during the Souris River Basin Study. That Study produced a foundation of public input that the present Authority will build upon in order to ensure that the interests of the Basin s residents are served in the best possible manner.

The public information program, on-going throughout the construction period, will follow these goals:

1. To provide a mechanism through which the general public, interest groups and Basin residents are informed about developments surrounding the project.
2. To provide a service that responds to the concerns and questions of the general public, interest groups and Basin residents as they pertain to the project.

The Authority will undertake an active public information program. As the project develops and throughout the public examination of the Environmental Impact Statement, the Souris Basin Development Authority will:

1. Develop a municipal liaison committee with memberships from the

cities, villages and towns affected by the project. This committee will meet regularly to hear current reports and inform the Authority of problems and concerns. The Authority will ensure that the City of Estevan and the appropriate service agencies are made aware, both initially and on an on-going basis, of the impact that the Project will have on the area. In particular, the Authority will outline the extent of expected labor influx during the project's construction in order to ensure appropriate accommodation and services.

2. Continue to meet with environmental and wildlife groups such as the Natural History Society and the Wildlife Federation, with emphasis on groups within the Souris River Basin.
3. Provide a "Dr. Sam Souris" column in the local newspapers to keep the general public informed about the project.
4. Conduct landholder interviews to ensure that the procedure for land acquisition and flood easements is understood and facilitated.
5. Publish a Project Newsletter that is available to everyone and is circulated throughout the Study Area. This newsletter will have photographs and articles that discuss the project in detail.
6. Build a construction view site that will enable the public to see the construction from a safe vantage point and at the same time provide access to an interpretive display.
7. Provide public interest "motivators" designed to encourage public interest in this highly innovative water management project. These motivators may include items such as restaurant placemats, pens, coffee cups, lapel pins, etc.
8. Produce news releases and provide press tours of the construction site.
9. Continue to operate a "store front" office providing easy access to the Authority,this facility will remain open following construction to allow landowners to express concerns as they arise.
10. Prepare an on-going video and photographic record of the project through all of its stages, beginning with the planning stage and ending with the completion of construction.
11. Provide speakers and slide presentations on the project to interested groups upon request.

PHOTO TWO:
Helping the spring runoff after heavy winter snows in the flat lands above the valley. 1976
(Photo Courtesy EMO)

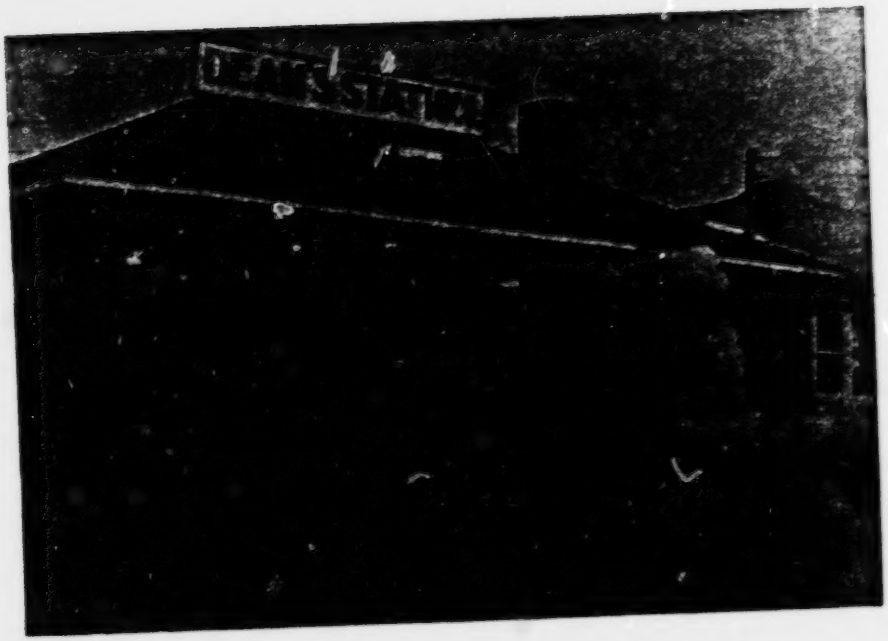

PHOTO THREE:
Winter snowfall 1943
(Photo Courtesy "A Tale is Told")

PHOTO FOUR: CBC at archaeological investigation site, 1986.
(Photo Courtesy SBDA)

PHOTO FIVE: The River auger always was a centre of activity - River park swimming pool near Estevan, 1912.
(Photo Courtesy "A Tale is Told")

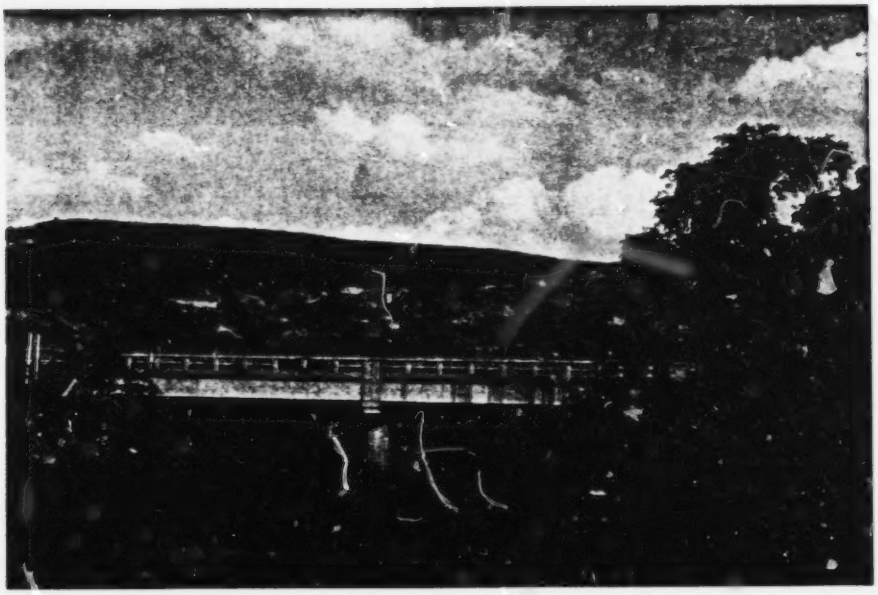

PHOTO SIX and SEVEN: Above and below the bridge on Highway 47 just south of Estevan showing the comparison of spring flooding and normal summer flows, 1976.

(Photo Courtesy SBDA)

PHOTO EIGHT: Flood at Roche Percee, 1948.
(Photo Courtesy "A Tale is Told").

PHOTO NINE: River Park Nursery near Estevan during 1976 floods.
(Photo Courtesy G. Fichtermann)

PHOTO TEN and ELEVEN:

Lake Darling Wildlife Refuge.
Outdoor education programs.
(Photo Courtesy U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service)

PHOTO TWELVE:
Summer hay field flooding in the Souris Valley (Photo Courtesy SBDA)

PHOTO THIRTEEN:
Spring floods up stream from proposed Rafferty Dam site.
(Photo courtesy SPC)

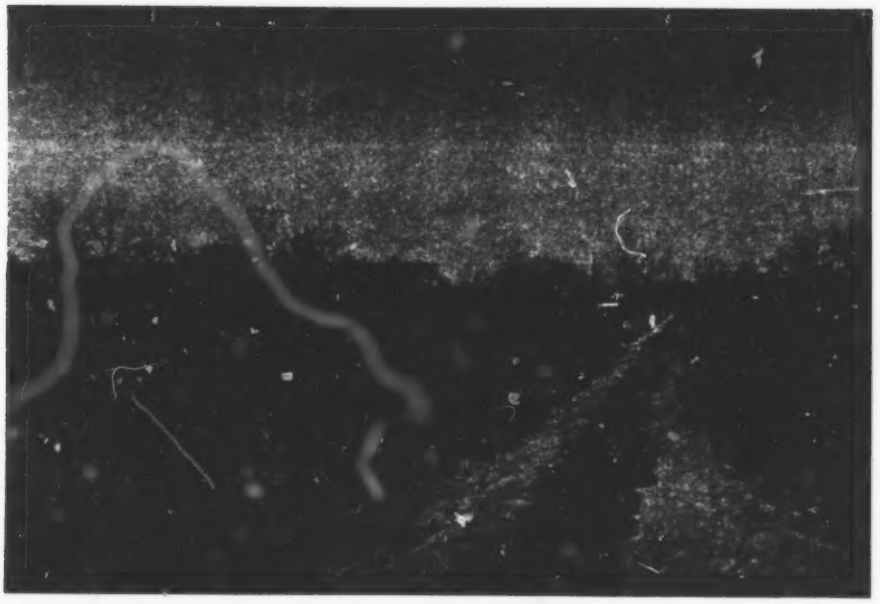

PHOTO FOURTEEN: 1976 flooding in Roche Percee.
(Photo courtesy SBDA)

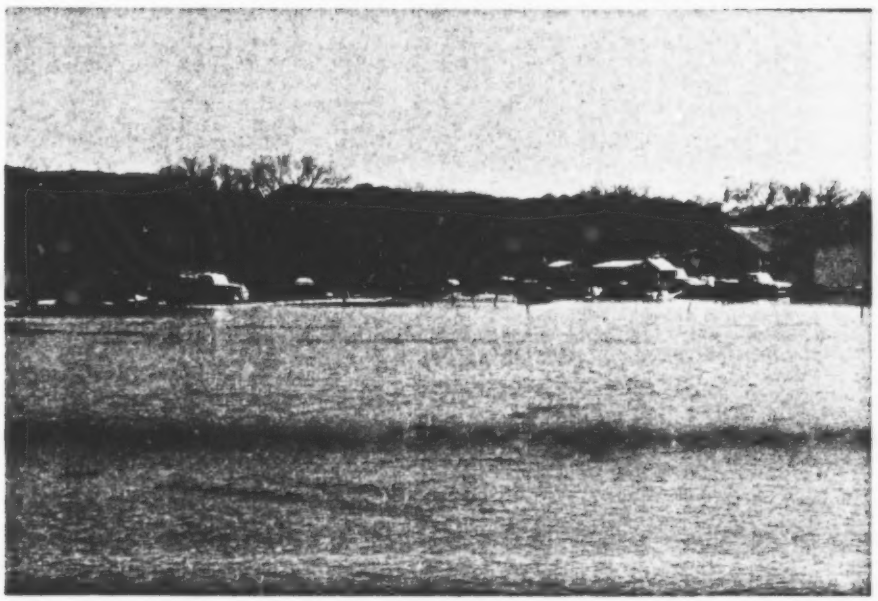

PHOTO FIFTEEN: A consequence of uncontrolled runoff in the Souris River above Estevan.
(Photo courtesy SBDA)

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

> "Experience has shown that the two "keystones" to devising effective plans are: first to bring together the best scientific and technical people available to address the problems; and second to consult fully with basin residents"
> Pentland, p. 79

The initiative represented by this water management proposal is rare in that extensive public input accompanies the design. Decisions made affecting the Souris River Basin, from the signing of the Boundary Waters Treaty in 1909 through to the planned construction of the Rafferty and Alameda Dams are characterized by a singular sensitivity to the goals, objectives and well-being of Basin residents. It is unique in Saskatchewan, perhaps in Canada, to have had such a strong commitment, effected in so many efforts to ensure public input in the development of such a major project.

The Authority has demonstrated that it will continue to be sensitive to the concerns of the residents directly affected by the Project. To do otherwise would compromise the Project intent which remains essentially to serve and to enhance opportunity in the Basin.

Of paramount importance to residents of the Souris River Basin and to the Souris Basin Development Authority is that sound water management is undertaken with continued public consultation and support such that economic and quality of life objectives are applied to local and corporate advantage.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT APPENDIX ONE

The following are examples of the comments received from this questionnaire:

DO YOU KNOW WHEN THERE HAS BEEN OR COULD BE A SHORTAGE OF WATER FOR HUMAN OR AGRICULTURAL USE?

* Many years when the river becomes low in August and later it becomes very difficult for stock, pasturing along the valley, to wade through the mud to drink at the river. This mainly occurs from U.S. boundary to approximately 19 miles north.
* There has been, and will be again, a shortage of water for human and animal consumption. Also for crop production.
* In dry years (there is a) shortage of water in Community Pastures and private pastures. Water is stagnant, stale. Not ample supply to use in nearby villages and towns. Mainprize Park suffers due to low water at times and at others is flooded.
* 1975 and 1976 are the only years in the last 20 that we had enough water for livestock in the Souris.
* There was a shortage of water for livestock in dry years such as 1958 and 1961.
* This has always been a problem in the Souris River Basin. During the years of the 1930's, the river at times was completely dry. P.F.R.A. constructed a dam at Midale known as Dead Lake Reservoir. However, the supply here is very limited and in times of heavy flooding there is a grave danger from the dam being washed out. Water for human and livestock is not a problem as most people in the area have very good wells. Water supply for irrigation is very limited as there is only Dead Lake Reservoir for this purpose. We have used this source to the best of our ability but could use a much greater amount if it were available.

* There had always been a shortage of water from time to time, however, the period of 1930-41 was the longest period of below normal flows in recent history. In an area that has an average annual rainfall of 17 inches and an average annual evaporation of about 29 inches. One can only conclude that the entire Souris River Basin is semi-arid.

* Shortage of water for human use east of Estevan. River has high bacteria. Ground water not fit for humans.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS? HAS THE QUALITY OF WATER CHANGED IS IT BETTER OR WORSE NOW THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST? HAS WATER QUALITY EVER BEEN A PROBLEM FOR YOU? IN THE WINTER? IN THE SUMMER?

* Water pollution is worse lately due to upstream pollution. Quality of water has been a problem in community pastures and Mainprize Park.

* During the past few years with the abundance of moisture the quality of water has remained good. But during drought periods the fact that the City of Estevan had to drain their lagoons without the proper amount of water being released from Boundary Dam at the same time, did cause some serious problems at the time as far as Roche Percee. With the City growing it appears that in case of water shortage at Boundary Dam some other sort of water supply should be made available to the City when they have to flush their lagoons. Another problem is caused by the ashes that find their way to the river from the Power Corporation lagoons. These ashes seem to cause problems after floods when they are washed out of the river and dumped on flooded farm land. Section 6-2-7 W2nd. Farmers have been encouraged to move their feed lots from the edge of the river thus preventing the accumulation of manure.

* We are concerned mainly with Moose Mountain Creek and P.F.R.A. dam on Moose Mountain Lake. The quality of the water has been much improved with the erection of the dam. Before the erection of dam, water in winter became foul with dead fish etc. on account of low water. Summer troubles were caused by low water.

* The only problem here in regards to the Souris River is pollution. There are various feedlots on the river during the winter and several dead cattle have been reported in the River. The water is very dirty and would have to pass rigid tests to be fit for human use.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY PROBLEMS THAT HAVE OCCURRED OR MAY OCCUR WITH WILDLIFE, FISH OR GENERAL RECREATION?

* Late harvest years ducks and geese cause farmers much crop damage. At present time south area is over populated with deer causing damage to hay supply in winter and heavy winter kill last year.
* The only effect that is here is that during wet years such as now we have a very large duck population and in the dry years, even when they nest here the flats dry and there is a large kill of younger ducks.
* With the building of a large dam at Estevan, Mainprize Park would have to be moved. New recreation areas opened up, trees planted on area above valley, new parks created which are sadly needed in the south country. Fish would increase as well as boating and recreation.
* Our only problem has been with the hunters.
* Ducks do a lot of damage to swathed crops in fall when encouraged to nest in area when water is plentiful. Most farms in area try to discourage nesting.
* We have a good population of deer, perhaps too large at times since the nurseries and market gardens have had serious problems with them at times.
* We are fortunate to have many kinds of wildlife on our Souris River and related water bodies. Roughbark, Buttermilk Lake, and Tataqua Marsh. Another dam would not only benefit us but would be a great help to farmers and urban alike downstream. Yes, we have heard cries from downstream of too much water but those who have lived here have also come to know how dry it can get.
* A dam helps to control spring flooding if managed right as lake should be kept a good level at all times. Lowered a little in wet falls and left alone in dry times. Ducks and geese are very plentiful.

* We cannot turn much land over to wildlife, (when the world is full of starvation). Wildlife owns plenty of land, but sorry as I am to say it, wildlife must come second to the human being.

* Wildlife in my opinion is adversely affected by the severe flooding.

* Wildlife such as birds are only harmful in late harvest caused by flooding when the ducks and geese eat the crop in the fall.

* The only problem that has been very noticeable has been the lack of muskrats that have wintered through. It looks like the trouble is flash floods in the winter which floods their food supplies and covers their breathing holes.

* Deer are losing their natural habitat for raising their young and their grazing land in the bush along the river because of flooding. A lot of wildlife lose their homes and are trapped when the river floods. Beaver are moving to ponds with the high water and then are winter killed when there is no water.

* Wildlife doesn't appreciate the high and lows of flows the last few springs. The deer have had to move out of the Souris Valley and up to the high lands.

* When river gets too low in fall the water freezes to the bottom and kills fish.

* In recent years we have had quite an increase in fish population in regards to Northern Pike (jackfish) and Walleyes in the river. Due to the conditions of the water these species are not fit to eat and same would apply to other wildlife who rely entirely on river water to drink.

* If dams were created there could be fishing, some beach areas and very good duck and goose hunting and nesting areas as there are now members of Canada geese already nesting in our area.

* Area below Estevan is ideal if it could be improved with better water control.

* We cannot over-estimate the transformation of Nickle Lake from twenty years ago to what it is today. A lot of hard work and money from rural, urban and provincial coffers has gone into this but without water we might as well have forgotten about the dream. With industrial use taking some of this water we should move quickly to conserve more water.

* Fishing and boating are the main things. Fishing is coming back slowly and will be alright if water level is handled right.

* The area east of Estevan is fairly heavy populated for an agricultural area and a reservoir would provide considerable recreation and relieve pressure on Moose Mountain Park.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY AREA WHERE FARMING WILL BENEFIT OR BE HARMED BY CHANGES IN DRAINAGE NOW OR IN THE FUTURE? DO YOU KNOW OF ANY IRRIGATION POSSIBILITIES? DO YOU KNOW OF ANY NEEDS FOR WATER FOR STOCK WATERING OR OTHER FARMING USES?

* Many acres of land in this area has been brought into production due to drainage. I expect there are some land that have been flooded due to increased drains. The increase in drains has caused water to rush to our rivers much faster hence gullies and wash outs have occurred causing erosion in many fields. There are definite possibilities of irrigation. I think only potato farmers have made use of the river.

* If a larger dam were built at Estevan small amounts of farm land would be flooded in the valley. However, this would create a higher storage basin of both Souris River and Dead Lake Basin and the annual flooding could be controlled. Water for domestic and irrigation could be piped back to farm and also villages, towns, and cities. Proper storage and control are needed in both dam and drainage ditches.

* We do need water for livestock. Four short years ago a number of farmers had to pump water from river to fill dugouts. I had to myself. The only time in 30 years but some do more often. This water is pumped for 2 miles from river. I don't think our land is suitable for irrigation but I am only speaking for my own area. These big floods are all hurting our land; pasture more than anything. You can plant a crop when it dries up but pasture takes years to come back.

* I cultivate 600 acres near the river and I am interested in irrigating possibly 200 acres and would like to have the right to use the water from the river.

* We are now using water available to the best of our ability for irrigation. Our biggest problem at the present time is lack of water control. In the last eight years we have been flooded 6 times to the extent that the water has laid for great lengths of time and has ruined our land. The haphazard way the government has handled the situation has led to our not being able to make a living. Drainage in the Yellow Grass Marsh without any means to handle the added flow of water together with an impossible situation below Estevan where they have constructed works and reconstructed others until we haven't any free flow of water causes this flat area to remain flooded for great length of time.

* Increased or present levels of drainage peaking floods to the 69, 73 and 74 levels will eventually wipe out all my cultivated land (200 acres). Frustration caused me to seed 40 acres on the south side of the river to hay in 73, as access, other than crossing the Souris was over 20 miles. This is on the same section as farm buildings. Also (I) have lost about 25 acres in my cultivated land as it will not all drain away after flooding. My land is a mess!! I am having problems controlling weeds and much top soil lost right down to the hard pan.

* Clearing of bush and draining sloughs has increased runoff and erosion has increased. As our population increases and farming (becomes) more intensified, small irrigation projects could be developed in Moose Mountain Creek valley by putting (a) small dam on (a) side creek and flood irrigating some bottom land. Dugouts supply any needs for watering stock and farm use where there is no other water supply.

* Major flooding at Beaver Park (was) caused by rapid flow of Moose Creek in spring. A flood control dam or dams on Moose Creek would eliminate this problem. With (a) control dam on Moose Creek, water released to down stream residents and U.S.A. could be spread over a longer period allowing the storage of greater amounts of water on the upper Souris. This would not violate our treaty with U.S.A. The Moose Creek Valley has no or very little farm land which would be flooded. (A) water users permit granted to affected farmer would help to obtain these lands for dam construction. A large body of water for recreation in summer would ease the population load on Moose Mountain Park.

* Too much Saskatchewan water from excessive drainage, watershed changes, and methods of farming together with a smaller but nevertheless contributing DesLacs watershed that has been altered by drainage of farmland, has caused problems all along the Souris when coupled with a wet cycle. In my area, we have been unable to drain our fields properly and the irrigated meadows have been under (water) so long that the types of grasses are changing to a marsh type of vegetation which is unsuited for livestock forage. As far as irrigation possibilities, there was a flood irrigation project organized just prior to World War Two. This would have been just upstream from the Sallyer Refuge and north of Towner. (It) failed due to lack of water rights since the Federal Fish and Wildlife have taken all remaining water right on the Souris in N.D.

* Most farms pasturing livestock in the river valley and hills depend on the water in the river basin. The livestock having access to the river water. Some land in the river valley appears suitable for irrigation. Several neighbors irrigate a quantity of hay land satisfactorily.

* Having lived in this district for 45 years I feel more emphasis should be placed on water conservation and storage rather than get(ting) rid of it. Over that period of time I can assure you we have had a lot more dry years then wet ones.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT APPENDIX TWO

The following are presentations made to the Souris Basin Study:

Norris J. Iverson, Weyburn, January 27, 1976

At a meeting held in Weyburn on August 8, 1975 it was pointed out that man's manipulation had aggravated the flooding problems. The Souris Conservation and Development Area Authority, the Rural Municipalities, the Cities, Highways and other government structures such as low dams and weirs were identified as a source of the problems.

Agencies have struggled, individually with the various problems along the Souris River since it was first settled and now we must ask.

How will we accommodate the ever increasing water flow?

How can the river system be upgraded to best serve the agricultural needs of the basin?

Stan Hansen, Weyburn, January 28, 1976

Drainage in the Yellow Grass area is not something new, the first works dating back to 1904 will support this. One may think that over a period of 70 years the problems should have all been solved, but this is not so. We are still plagued with them.

Shortly after 1950, with assistance from ARDA our main channels were reconstructed and additional laterals were built but the past few years have shown us that our main channels, and a lot of the bridges are no longer adequate. A combination of a number of things such as - authorized drainage, private unauthorized ditching, both within and outside our boundaries, heavy snowfall and heavy rains all contribute.

It is not our desire or intent to just "dump" water aggravating the problem down stream. Rather we are willing to co-operate fully with everybody involved to arrive at a good workable solution.

Harold M. Jacobsson, Weyburn, Reeve R.M. of Weyburn, January 28, 1976

For years it has been accepted that the Souris originates in the Weyburn area until drainage brought in additional water from outside the areas.

Some thought should be given to conserving some of this water where the terrain lends itself.

Gordon Cook, Goodwater, January 21, 1976

The Dr. Mainprize Regional Park Board are concerned over the adverse effects on our park as a result of flooding from an overflow of the Souris River.

During the past three or four years we have had an unusual amount of flood conditions and the flooding has totally submerged the golf course, the treed area, the ball diamonds and the area around the concession booth and playground. As a direct result of these flood conditions there has been a large amount of silt deposited on the grounds, the standing water has caused noticeable saline conditions and there has been damage to the trees, roadway, buildings and equipment. In addition to this, the flooding conditions have prevented spring maintenance work and the Park has lost several weeks in proper preparation and maintenance of the Park grounds and facilities.

Weyburn Task Force Member, January 28, 1976

Due to a very large drainage program in the upper reaches of the Souris River, we feel that it is causing larger floods and of a longer duration and there has been no consideration given to what happens to the water once it enters the river channel. There is also a lot of unauthorized drainage going on all over the Province and our area is no exception.

On the main channel of the Souris River there is very little storage capacity to date.

In our opinion the construction of a very large dam in the Estevan area is the best solution to the greatest number of people not only in our area but throughout the entire length of the Souris River. We understand that plans for a dam of this type is presently in the planning. We feel it is quite possible to connect this dam with Boundary Dam as the distance from Boundary Dam to the site of the proposed dam is possibly a distance of five or six miles.

The water in a dam such as this could be used for numerous things mainly for efficient water control. Because of the large coal deposits in the area I am sure industry would spring up as they would be assured of a constant water supply. Irrigation is another possibility. I am sure that the city of Weyburn would welcome this recommendation as a solution to their present water supply.

With the construction of a dam it must also be kept in mind that the existing channel of the river below the proposed dam would have to be carefully studied. In it's present condition it would not be able to transport water to any great extent. Therefore we would strongly recommend the cleaning of the river bed receive first priority as this work could commence even before the proposed dam was under construction. We believe that the practice of draining lands will continue and grow. We have no quarrel with this but we feel that something must be done in this area immediately to resolve the flooding problem we are experiencing with compensation of any kind.

Living in this area I am sure we are all aware that we could face the return of some very dry years and the quantity of water that could be impounded by Rafferty Dam would be a great asset.

R.M. of Estevan, November, 1977

Whereas we have not an ample water supply to Cities, Towns and Villages along the Souris River and to support the agriculture enterprises during dry years and whereas the agricultural enterprises along with cities, towns and villages depend on electrical power, and whereas S.P.C. has not a supply of water as a reserve, and whereas flooding of the Souris River is beyond control because of surface drainage and land reclamation in Yellow Grass and Tatwagna Marsh and whereas flooding of the Souris River Valley causes anxiety and hardship to several R.M.'s by direct damage to roads and bridges, and recent grants from flood damage, therefore be it resolved that this meeting endorse Rafferty Dam in principle.

R.M. of Benson, April 18, 1977

I have been asked by the Council of this municipality to advise you that we approve of the Rafferty Dam project.

City of Estevan, April 15, 1978

The Council of the City of Estevan is very concerned about the quality and quantity of the future water supply for the City, as in the foreseeable future, due to increased requirements of the City and Boundary Dam Generating Station, Estevan could be facing a shortage of water.

We earnestly request, therefore, that every effort be exerted to have Rafferty Dam constructed in the near future, as in addition to ensuring an excellent source of quality water for this City and numerous other communities, it will provide unlimited opportunities for industrial and recreational development.

Hitchcock Water Users, April, 1977

Flooding; There are two types of floods:

(1) Spring runoff - In the past spring runoff was most desirable as it flooded the haylands ensuring a good crop of hay. However for the past few years the water has remained for longer periods of time and has caused extensive damage to these haylands. Even the tame hay recommended for long periods of flooding has been drowned out and the wild hay is being replaced with undesirable water grass, fireweed, and wild hemlock. The longer flooding period has also caused a later haying season resulting in acres of unharvested hay. The yield of the hay harvested has been cut to approximately half and the quality is questionable.

(2) Summer Flooding - these floods occur often and are a serious threat every year. Due to poor drainage in our area and increased drainage in the headwaters of the Souris River. Any heavy rainstorms upstream can cause flooding in our area.

Drought:

We live in one of the drier areas of the Province and have suffered at times from the lack of water. Due to the poor water conservation in the area we feel that much more is possible to make use of and conserve water that rises in the Souris River water shed.

Because of flooding on one hand and drought on the other, this area is only productive a fraction of its potential.

Jack Smart, Roche Percee, November, 1977

Our property has been flooded many times, and will be flooded worse than ever before. There has been no real constraint put on illegal drainage and our channel can not accommodate it. We have objected to the practice of illegal drainage ever since the first meeting we attended.

Moose Jaw Souris Water Association

This brief was presented to the government prior to the Study and was represented during the study by the Moose Jaw Souris Association.

The Moose Jaw Souris Water Association was born with the knowledge that one half of the population of Saskatchewan lives in the southeast section of the province. This area needs water for its present population and for growth. If the area is to divert from the present wheat farming to other forms of agriculture as well as industry, it requires an assured water supply. Industrial development, such as the development of a large coal supply will require abundant water supply. Our Association fully realizes the pressure that the export of water is bringing to Government at present and that this pressure is going to multiply in the next decade or so. If we cannot use this water, we will find ourselves in the position of the "dog in the manger". We are extremely happy that our Deputy Premier is also aware of these problems, we quote from Mr. Steuart's remarks in the Leader Post, July 3, 1970 issue: "Saskatchewan's single greatest untapped resource is its fresh water", he said "The Americans are quickly using up or polluting their fresh water sources and Saskatchewans largely unpolluted and un-used reserves could prove an invaluable marketable resource." He said "there is no question of squandering this valuable resource and it could only be marketed by having the Americans come to Saskatchewan for their needs." We should also point out to the Government that the construction of a dam in the Lake Darling area of North Dakota is designed, we understand, to hold some of the flow of the Souris River and we now allow about 85 percent to enter the U.S.A. not the agreed 50 percent. In the future, when we need the extra 35 percent we are entitled to. We will have difficulty repossessing it.

The Moose Jaw Souris Association was originally formed to assure water supplies for the Cities of Moose Jaw, Regina, Weyburn and Estevan but has since been expanded to include the intermediate towns and the farming communities. The total development of the large areas is our concern and we know it is the concern of our government. The full potential of the area can only be developed if an adequately guaranteed water supply is available. The probable solution is the full development of the water sources in the area.

The very critical problem that the City of Weyburn finds itself in, in its effort to attract industry is well known to the government departments. This applies to a lesser extent to Estevan. This center has sufficient water for domestic needs at the present time, but could lose industry if water supply is a critical item either on a supply or a cost basis. Weyburn needs a larger and a more assured supply immediately. The immediate supply for domestic purposes for Estevan is adequate but a complete reassessment will be required in the next 20 years or less. The long range supplies for both centers must be allowed for, in any water planning.

The industrial potential of the southeastern section of the province must be dealt with in detail. Some of the requirements of industry are cheap fuel (oil and coal), cheap and abundant supply of water, markets, abundant and diversified labor force and all other modern amenities. All these requirements can be met in this area with some question on the water supply and this we want to correct. The fuel supply with the large coal and oil supply is certainly more than adequate to meet all the needs. The coal and oil are being exported, so let's use more at home. This is not to mention the power available from the Boundary Dam. The market potential of the area includes 50 percent of the population of Saskatchewan and a large untapped market in the northern U.S.A. The Province of Saskatchewan has been supplying the rest of Canada with high quality workers and professional personnel for over 40 years. Let us reverse this trend with aggressive industrial development.

An assured water supply will, we believe, give southeast Saskatchewan an area able and ready to give our province additional industrial potential.

The potential for irrigation in the southeastern section of the province has not been fully served. It has a similar climate to that of southern Alberta and we all know of their success. In southwestern Saskatchewan, the many small projects developed under PFRA have been very instrumental in stabilizing their economy with the livestock industry so far.

The very urgent need for the wheat farmers of Saskatchewan to diversify does not need to be dealt with in great length in this Brief, but it cannot be overlooked in any plans for the heavy wheat producing area of southeast Saskatchewan. This is already a heavy producer of livestock but it certainly could be increased with adequate water.

One of the main byproducts of irrigation seems to be livestock and in many cases, is the more profitable part of the irrigation project.

In recent years, centers such as Weyburn, Moose Jaw and Lumsden have spent large amounts of money in the wake of floods. Flood control is very closely connected with irrigation and water conservation. The retention of at least part of this water would enable it to be used for some of the uses suggested in the Brief and at the same time reduce the expensive flooding encountered. Efforts were made in the early fifties by (the) Conservation and Drainage District to drain certain lands in this area. Now, if this water could be stored further downstream for later use, it could both serve the original purpose and flood control. We feel that water-short Saskatchewan has not scratched the surface in the use of our greatest resource **WATER**.

Saskatchewan cannot guard its water quality and quantity enough unless it multiplies its present efforts. We will need all the water available in the future.

Most modern recreation is water based. The use of the present facilities in southeastern Saskatchewan are taxed to the limit in the summer months. Saskatchewan has the Qu'Appelle Lakes, Kenosee, Carlyle Lakes and a number of regional parks all taxed by the present population. There is little room for the lucrative American tourist trade here. If a major water storage facility were built here, it would open another possibility for a recreation facility. It, of course, would take time but we believe any good recreation facility such

as the one being produced at Diefenbaker Lake, has required time and money. There are no doubt many more along the Souris Rivers that could be developed, and are more endowed with natural facilities than the Regina Wascana development.

Any discussion of wildlife must be closely associated with recreation. For the purposes of this Brief, we would suggest that the increase in the use and storage in the southeastern section of the province would almost certainly increase the wildlife potential.

We recognize that increased water will, in time, mean increased **INDUSTRY**, more productive **AGRICULTURE**, more **RECREATION**, and all will change the population forecast.

Here again it would appear to us that the most effective way to guarantee a greater supply of water for Estevan would be the construction of the Rafferty Dam.

We realize that it would be somewhat difficult to justify the cost in relation to todays needs but would suggest that when one considers the potential development that could take place in the future because of the oil and coal reserves located in the area and the increased need for additional power supply, then it may be easier.

The residents of southeastern Saskatchewan want to have the opportunity to use the very important resource that Mr. Steuart mentioned in his press release.

Estevan Task Force - Paul Bachorcik, 1977

We as Task Force E at Estevan, do authorize Rafferty Dam and channelization of river by Estevan and Roche Percee, and the linking of Rafferty Dam and Boundary Dam because:

1. It's a complete answer to flood control.
2. It has many potential uses; a human resource, improve water quality and quantity, irrigation possibilities, industrial potential and a water related resource.
3. It would allow 100,000 acres of land to be put into production which now affects six to eight municipalities.

4. It could protect future use in six to eight regional parks.
5. It would supply water for many thousands of people in cities, towns and villages along the stream.
6. It would contain spring run-off waters in a 17,000 acre area in the dam (reservoir) rather then flood literally all lands in the Souris Valley and it would be a reservoir for drainage wastes above which now take out of production many acres of good farm land. This loss of land is at present a tax loss to municipalities.

Estevan, with a population in excess of 10,000, needs water.

Rafferty Dam would give full flood protection to valley businesses and residents, Golf Course, Woodlawn Regional Park, and Roche Percee with a combined population of over 100 families. It would also protect an Indian Nursery and Greenhouse, and protect the Estevan Water Treatment plant. Besides it would protect many more towns and villages downstream.

Some members of our Task Force attended hearings at Minot N.D. They are spending 204 millions of dollars on Burlington Dam, which would be a dry dam to protect the population of Minot. We feel that Rafferty Dam could give them protection as well. I suggested to them that they join us with solutions and funds and we could help one another, after all, does it matter if we are Canadians or Americans, we all are people of the Souris Valley. We invited them to join us to solve the whole problem in Saskatchewan, Minot, U.S.A. wherever the Souris flows.

The water is there to be managed and used. All we have to do is agree to the best solution for all.

Don Wilkinson, 1985

In my opinion, there are three reasons why this area has consistently produced and pastured cattle so successfully for many years.

1. We have some of the most productive grazing land available in Saskatchewan.
2. There is an excellent source of water for cattle in this area, supplied by the Souris River and Roughbark Creek. Barnes Dam is located in the northwest corner of the community pasture on Roughbark Creek and is opened whenever water is needed downstream.

3. The natural tree growth along the river and creek provides excellent shade in the heat of summer, and protection during inclement weather.

If the Rafferty Dam was built for flood control, grass, trees and valuable hayland in the existing valleys would be flooded with water in the spring, with some of this water being released during the summer. This would leave the river valleys with mud flats from the high water level to the water's edge. Consequently, water sources would be inaccessible to livestock, as these mud flats would become boggy.

In addition to the resources covered with water from the dam, there are approximately 25,000 acres of grass and farm land between the Roughbark Creek on the west and the Souris River on the east. If there were no bridges across the valleys, it would leave this area inaccessible except from the north. This combination of circumstances would virtually wipe out private land base units along the valleys, and would also have a drastic effect on the community pasture and its ability to serve the people who have depended on it for years.

Approximately 60 patrons pasture about 3,300 head of stock in the Goodwater Community Pasture, and derive a substantial portion of their livelihood from these cattle.

I would respectfully ask that before the many natural resources in this part of Saskatchewan are destroyed, that Government officials take a first hand look at what is here, before putting it under water.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT APPENDIX THREE

The following are the records of the comments made at the Open House Meetings held in the Souris Basin in March, 1986:

Estevan

- concern - potential length of time before reservoir fills and facilities can be built
- wildlife mitigation will be essential
- interest in developing a wildlife park area near Rafferty Dam Site
- island at McDonald Lake should be reserved for wildlife
- food plots and tree plantations should be researched, planned and implemented to allow land acquisition before the flooding starts
- the Wildlife Federation has subsequently requested the Wildlife Federation Habitat Inventory information to use in shaping their suggestions and recommendations
- questions what park and recreation areas are planned along Rafferty and Alameda
- great interest in development of angling particularly ice fishing
- considerable interest in cottage development on both Rafferty and Alameda
- an elderly couple glad to see the white-tailed deer reduced because south of Estevan at confluence of Long Creek and Souris - deer are a <u>real</u> <u>pest</u>, they eat all their ornamentals and garden
- great interest in developing Rafferty for water based recreation i.e. boating, swimming, waterskiing, fishing, waterfowl hunting particularly in McDonald Lake area near Rafferty Dam
- strong position by Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation that islands left in the Rafferty reservoir should be protected and developed for wildlife - in addition, alternative lands must be acquired for wildlife habitat to mitigate for lost habitat in the reservoir

Weyburn

- some concern for flooding and destruction of upper parts of Souris above Mainprize and in Roughbark Creek Channel

- Natural History Society concerned about loss of critical wildlife habitat particularly as travel land for song birds
- some interest in improved fishing on Rafferty
- some expression of disappointment that water won't come back far enough to help Nickle Reservoir at Weyburn
- suggestion that some abandoned farm yards south of reservoir could be the focus for relocated Regional Park

Carlyle

- interest in developing fishing, recreation and cottaging on Alameda Reservoir as alternative to Moose Mountain Park
- pike sometimes come up from Oxbow past the dam there
- Moose Mountain Lake much further upstream has had good population of pike in past few years
- deer population is much reduced this year - some concern that the significant deer loss (approximately 200) on Alameda might counter the recreation benefits
- Wildlife Federation concerned that suitable alternative land be acquired for mitigation for lost critical wildlife habitat land
- SWF knows that some four sections to be flooded are in the Critical Wildlife Habitat Protection Act
- interest whether government will control all the land around the reservoir and control all recreation and cottage development
- some concern about fluctuating water levels as they effect fisheries
- great interest in the enhanced opportunities for fishing and park related recreation in Alameda Reservoir

Midale

- what to do with Mainprize - possibilities - move Mainprize structures to Midale - rebuild recreation facilities; start all over again - good opportunity to update facilities which are getting run down
- dike off the park to protect it
- move the swimming pool and golf course to one of the towns where a decent facility can be built and maintained
- concern that volunteer labor would not be available to rebuild the park

- concern that a suitable replacement park area could not be found
- the shores of the reservoir may not be suitable for boat launching, waterskiing, cottage development, because of shallow shorelines, muddiness or stoniness and possibly water quality
- concern about roads crossing the reservoir - must be looked after
- some concern about the loss of deer habitat - about upland birds no thoughts
- concern that trees be cleared to prevent Tobin Lake situation
- opportunity to improve golf course, swimming pool and upgrade Mainprize Park - presently the pool is no good (may even be condemned) golf course is constrained and flood some springs; trees are starting to die and some structures deteriorated as a result of past flooding
- Regional Park Board (Authority) losing energy as the members becoming older
- opportunity to enhance angling of game species such as pike and pickerel
- presently only catch perch and bullheads and occasional pike in Dead Lake
- concern that draw downs will destroy fishing and cause die-offs
- prospects of more waterfowl was not particularly welcome
- some concern about loss of deer habitat especially the small herd of mule deer on hogsback at Mainprize Park

Alameda

- positive
- biggest source of optimism - fishing opportunity
- opportunity to go to reservoir rather than going to Moose Mountain Park for recreation
- opportunity for water recreation e.g. waterskiing, boating, etc. (virtually non-existent in the area at present)
- even several farmers who will lose land were looking forward to improved water supply
- there was no public concern for loss of wildlife habitat
- questions about where the land acquisition line is and what the land use is within the line

- will government control or restrict land use around the reservoir?
- some interest in cottaging
- farmers looking forward to selling land to the project and building a home and retiring on shores of the lake
- concern about the water regimes re: fisheries and wildlife